

Appl. No. 10/091,732

Attorney Docket No. 10541-264

**I. Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently amended): A vehicle trim panel installed in an interior of a motor vehicle, the trim panel comprising:

a first layer formed of a first material having polypropylene, such that the first layer is being exposed to the interior of the motor vehicle;

a recyclate second layer formed of a second material comprising a natural fiber composite having natural fibers mixed with polypropylene fibers, the second layer positioned adjacent the first layer; wherein the recyclate layer has a top surface and a bottom surface; and

a second third layer formed of a third material having polypropylene and a recyclate material, the third layer positioned between the first layer and the top surface of adjacent the recyclate second layer[[.]] ;

a fourth layer formed of a fourth material comprising a natural fiber composite, the fourth layer positioned adjacent the third layer such that the third layer is sandwiched between the second and fourth layers; and

the first layer being chemically bonded to the second layer by way of the polypropylene fibers through heat treatment.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended): The trim panel of Claim 2, wherein the second and fourth materials third layer is formed of the same material as the second layer of the second and fourth layers are the same material.

4. (Currently amended): The trim panel of Claim 1, wherein density of the second and fourth layers is greater than the density of the first layer and the recyclate third layer.

5. (Original): The trim panel of Claim 1, wherein the first material is selected from a group comprising of extruded polypropylene or spun bond polypropylene.

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6. (Currently amended): The trim panel of Claim 1, wherein the ~~second~~ recyclate material is selected from a group ~~comprising~~ consisting of vinyl offal or natural fiber offal.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended): The trim panel of Claim ~~7~~ 1, wherein the natural fibers are selected from a group comprising of kenaf, hemp, flax, jute or sisal.

9. (Original): The trim panel of Claim 1, wherein the second layer of the trim panel forms the substrate.

10. (Currently amended): A method of forming a trim panel attached to the interior of a motor vehicle, the trim panel having a first layer, a second layer, a third layer and a fourth layer, the method comprising:

forming the second layer and the fourth layer by mixing nature fibers with polypropylene fibers ~~in presence of a binder material;~~

forming the third layer by granulating a recyclate material and adding to a top surface of the fourth layer;

sandwiching the third layer between the second layer and the fourth layer;

~~forming the first layer from a first material;~~

~~tacking on~~ placing the first layer ~~to on~~ a top surface of the second layer;

forming a pre-form comprising the first layer, the second layer, the fourth layer and the third layer sandwiched between the second layer and the fourth layer;

~~inserting the pre-form into a molding tool;~~

~~molding~~ heating the pre-form to form the trim panel such that a chemical bond is formed between the first layer and the second layer.

11. (Original): The method of claim 10, further comprising selecting the natural fibers from a group consisting of kenaf, flax, jute or sisal.

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12. (Original): The method of claim 10, further comprising selecting the recycle material from a group consisting of vinyl offal or natural fiber offal.

13. (Currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the first layer is formed of a first material is selected from a group comprising of extruded polypropylene or spun bond polypropylene.

14. (Original): The method of claim 10, further comprising wherein during the step of molding of the pre-form the second layer and the fourth layer are compression molded such that the fourth layer is adaptable to be attached to an interior metal sheet of the motor vehicle.

15. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the second and third layers are chemically bonded by way of the polypropylene fibers through heat treatment.

16. (New): The method of claim 15, wherein the third and fourth layers are chemically bonded by way of the polypropylene fibers through heat treatment.

17. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the recycle material includes recycled forms of the second material.

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